

E-SAFETY POLICY

Purpose

With the introduction of the chromebooks as the main technological source of learning and ever increasing risks of using the internet, Wingate School believes that parents, staff and students need clear and concise guidelines concerning the safe use of the internet both in and out of school. The partnership of responsibility between the school and parents is critical in the protection of our children as far as reasonably practicable. All students in Years 5, 6 and all Senior students must purchase a Chromebook from the school before commencing. This is mandatory and students can only use the school chromebook model within school, no other devices are to be used.

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Designated Safeguarding Lead - | Mr M Howells - Head of Wingate School |
| • Gooseberry Guru - | Ms S Munro |
| • Head of IT | Mr D Smith |
| • IT Technician- | Mr H Basford |

The internet and other digital and information technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. Electronic communication helps teachers and students learn from each other. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and increase awareness of context to promote effective learning. Children and young people should have an entitlement to safe internet access at all times. The requirement to ensure that children and young people are able to use the internet and related communications technologies appropriately is therefore an important factor of the duty of care that we have as a school. The use of these exciting and innovative tools in school and at home has been shown to raise educational standards and promote student achievement.

Safeguards in Place:

- School based firewall which filters websites and their content. The firewall prevents access to social network sites, which is a continuous process of development
- Google Classroom online firewall as part of the G-Suite package. This also restricts access to websites, certain words and phrases in searches, access to student friendly videos on youtube.com
- Protocols which prevent students creating additional user accounts which may circumnavigate safety protocols and devices
- Protocols which prevent the download of apps or software other than those available in the Google Apps for Learning or school authorised apps
- Restricting students access to student only areas of the wireless system by passwords and protocols
- Students are unable to send or receive emails outside of the wingateschool.com domain i.e. only teachers and other students
- The introduction of Gooseberry Planet®, an online safety teaching software package used by students from Year 1 to Year 10 as a stand alone teaching package or part of the school PSHE programme
- As the School moves to increase the use of social networks, the 'School Social Network Procedure' has been added to the Schools Policies and Procedures

These safeguards are constantly under review.

These safety protocols are in place when students are using their chromebooks. However, when using a mobile phone, unless a student accesses the internet through the school wifi, these safeguards are not in place. The use of mobile phones in school is discussed later.

If your child is using their chromebook on a home network or wireless system away from school, there are still some safety features in place through the G-Suite. Though if your child uses the Chrome explorer to surf the net from their chromebook, there are only safeguards if **you** have put them in place.

Online threats to your child:

The use of these technologies can put young people at risk, using any device capable of connecting to the internet, some of the dangers they may face include:

- Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images or other content
- Unauthorised access to / loss of / sharing of personal information
- The risk of being subject to grooming by those with whom they make contact on the internet
- The sharing / distribution of personal images with or without an individual's consent or knowledge such as sexting or revenge messages
- Inappropriate communication / contact with others, including strangers e.g. internet games with online opponents
- Cyber-bullying particularly on social networks
- Access to unsuitable video / internet games

- The risk of radicalisation
- Loss of privacy through shared locations
- An inability to evaluate the quality, accuracy and relevance of information on the internet
- Plagiarism and copyright infringement
- Illegal downloading of music or video files

E-Safety has been a large part of our education at Wingate for some time and will continue to be so. The introduction of Gooseberry Planet® software across the school, will teach students about internet safety from ages 5 to 16. It is also taught within the PSHE programme along with Gooseberry where we have regular Assemblies. There are E-safety posters around the school and in some rooms which are regularly updated. Using Internet Matters free resources. E-safety issues are regularly discussed by staff and management.

Use of Mobile Phones in School:

As per the Behaviour and Discipline Policy and numerous messages to parents and students: use of mobile phones is **banned in school**. Now students have a chromebook, there is absolutely **no need** for a student to use a mobile in or out of lessons. The following procedures must be followed:

- If your child is unwell, they tell a teacher who will send them to the sick room to be assessed. Should it be deemed that your child is to go home, then you will be contacted by the Office
- Should you have an urgent message for your child, contact the office and the message will be relayed to your child
- Each bus supervisor has access to your contact numbers so you can be contacted in the event of an issue or emergency

Sanctions: As per the school Behaviour and Discipline Policy which can be found on the school website.

Misuse of Chromebooks:

- The condition of a students' Chromebook is entirely theirs and the parents responsibility
- The cost of a compulsory replacement chromebook which is required if the damage to the students chromebook is such that it is not fit for purpose, must be met by the parent and the compulsory replacement can only be purchased through the school

In School:

Any attempt to breach the implemented safety features above, will be considered as a deliberate attempt to misuse their device. The following sanctions will be employed (and are also incorporated in the Behaviour and Discipline Policy):

- First level Action: Dealt with the class teacher

Continued misuse:

- 1st Sanction: Mr Smith will explain the potential dangers of their actions and will check their device for any potential issues
- 2nd Sanction: The students account will be frozen for a period of time to enforce the seriousness of their actions, Mr Howells informed who informs the students parents
- 3rd Sanction: Dealt with by Mr Howells, parents called into school

Out of School:

Wingate school takes the e-safety of students seriously.

Where bullying outside school (such as online or via text) is reported to the school, it will be investigated and acted on. Students can report this to any member of staff. If Senior School staff feel that an offence may have been committed they should seek assistance from the police.

- All incidents of cyberbullying reported to the school will be recorded on an Incident Report Form
- Students, staff and parents/carers will be advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence
- The school will take steps to identify the culprit, where possible and appropriate. This may include examining school system logs, identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, contacting the service provider and the police if necessary

Some strategies:

- Be aware where and when your child accesses the internet at home
- Consult advice on online safety from experts such as:
 - o Access their Gooseberry Planet account regularly and discuss what they have done and learned
 - o Child Line offers lots of online advice
 - o For students 13+ there is an online, moderated site called "MeeTwo" - meetwo.co.uk Young children can download the app which has different areas of issues where they can get advice and support from peers and experts
 - o Internetmatters.org give advice to parents and various ages of children

Communication is the key.

Discuss with your child issues surrounding internet safety:

- o Agree certain house rules such as time spent on-line
- o Encourage your child to share the content of their phone with you
- o Make your child use their chromebook where you can see the screen
- o Encourage your child to show you their classrooms and this will help you see their class work – and any homework tasks
- o For their mobile phone, teach them to have the courage to "turn it off"!
- o Encourage them to act responsibly and share any online problems with you immediately

When parents register their child at Wingate School using the online Registration, they have to tick the E-Safety box accepting the Wingate School Terms & Conditions regarding E-Safety and the terms within the E-Safety Policy.

Links for interest:

<https://gooseberryplanet.com/>

Mr M Howells
Head of Wingate School

Date of review: August 2025